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Meissner, Otto. Noch einige Bemerkungen über das Klima von Potsdam. p. 62-64.

Diesner, P. Hochwasser-Nachrichten aus der Südosthälfte Asiens im Sommer 1911. p. 64-67. [Describes storms and rainy weather in many parts of Asia coinciding with the period of heat and drought in Europe.]

Liese, G. Brummen der Telegraphendrähte. p. 69.

Less, E[mil]. Über die Aufstellung besonderer Wetterprognosen von kurzer Geltungsdauer. p. 70-76. [Describes arrangements in Germany for short-period afternoon and evening forecasts for aeronauts.]

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count of what appears to have been a most unusual illustration of the peculiar action of lightning. The accompanying reproduction of a photograph showing the track of the discharge down a portion of the tree struck, graphically illustrates the usual character of the stroke:

I inclose a photographic print of the track of a lightning discharge on the trunk of a pine tree. This tree stands to the left and very near the road to Willsboro Point just after passing the McCann house going north in Willsboro, Essex County, N. Y. The two tracks are alike in section and appear to be of uniform depth, width, and distance between



"Track of a peculiar lightning discharge on the trunk of a tree."

the two tracks. The cross section of each single track resembles the letter U, with the bottom of the curve in the sap wood which is hardly splintered. Each track looks as if it had been cut with a sharp gouge. Pieces of the outer cork bark were thrown more than 60 feet from the tree. With a good glass I can discover no broken branches or other injury to the tree except this double track. The track from the top of the tree to the ground passes in the opposite direction to the movement of the hands of a watch, nearly once and a quarter times around the tree. The double track is thirteen-sixteenths of an inch wide. The tree was struck at 9 p. m., September 25, 1909. There was apparently but one discharge at that time.

REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT METEOROLOGICAL WORK IN CHILE.

On January 1, 1911, the meteorological services of Chile were united under the direction of Dr. Walter Knoche, the director of the newly established "Instituto Central Meteorológico y Geofísico de Chile." The meteorological stations formerly under the minister of education were transferred to the care of Dr. Knoche on May 1, 1910, and the service lately under the minister of marine was similarly transferred on January 1, 1911. Complete instrumental outfits were at once ordered for both the Central Observatory and the country stations, and it is probable that they are now well equipped. It is difficult to secure many reliable observers at present, but it is planned to establish observing stations as well distributed as possible over the whole country; the agricultural and industrial districts in the south of the Republic to be especially cared for.

Four orders of stations are to be established, as follows:

First order stations.—Completely equipped with self-registering instruments. These stations will be located at Punta Arenas, Valdivia, Santiago, Valparaiso, a mine in Atacama, and a temporary station on Easter Island.

Second order stations.—Equipped with barograph, thermograph, hygograph, and pluviograph.

Third order stations.—Having a full equipment for direct eye observations, the readings to be made at 7^h, 14^h, and 21^h.

Fourth order stations.—Recording temperature and precipitation only, these to be supplemented by a larger number of "precipitation-thunderstorm" stations.

Plans are making for investigations in atmospheric electricity, complementary to those made during 1909 in the Bolivian Andes by Dr. Knoche. It is also hoped that there will soon be provided means for carrying on studies in the physics of the atmosphere, aerology, etc. At present there are neither funds for apparatus nor the necessary trained assistants to prosecute such work effectively.

A PECULIAR STROKE OF LIGHTNING.

A letter from Mr. Norman N. Mason, Plattsburg, N. Y., dated April 29, 1912, contains the following ac-